

August 1, 1995

In Their Own Words

Clinton Administration Officials on Ballistic Missile Defense Issues

A controversial debate is expected on the 1995 Missile Defense Act (MDA), Subtitle C of Title II of S. 1026, the Department of Defense Authorization bill for FY 1996. The 1995 MDA accelerates and provides a focus for theater missile defense programs and establishes a policy for the deployment of a national missile defense system.

Below are revealing quotes from Clinton Administration officials on various issues related to ballistic missile defense.

On Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD)

"The bad news is that in this era, deterrence may not provide even the cold comfort it did during the Cold War. We may be facing terrorists or rogue regimes with ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons at the same time in the future, and they may not buy into our deterrence theory. Indeed, they may be madder than MAD."

[Defense Secretary William J. Perry, Speech to the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, 3/8/95]

"We now have the opportunity to create a new relationship, based not on MAD, not on Mutual Assured Destruction, but rather on another acronym, MAS, or Mutual Assured Safety."

[Secretary of Defense William Perry, Speech before the Harry L. Stimson Center, 9/20/94]

On the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty

"The 1972 ABM Treaty does not conform with either the changed geopolitical circumstances or the new technological opportunities of today. We should not be reluctant to negotiate treaty modifications that acknowledge the new realities, provided we retain the essential stabilizing purpose of the treaty."

[Deputy Secretary of Defense John Deutch, DoD Memorandum, 2/7/95]

"The ABM Treaty is not — I repeat not — a TMD [Theater Missile Defense] Treaty. The words 'TMD' do not appear in the Treaty. They are not in there."
[Robert G. Bell, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Defense Policy and Arms Control, NSC, Luncheon Speech, IFPA Symposium, 6/20/95]

On the Threat

"We can confirm that the North Koreans are developing two additional missiles with ranges greater than the 1,000-kilometer missile that it flew last year. These new missiles. . . could put at risk all of North East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific area, and, if exported to the Middle East, could threaten Europe as well."
[James Woolsey, Former CIA Director, Statement before the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, 2/24/93]

"If the North Koreans field the Taepo Dong 2 missile, Guam, Alaska and parts of Hawaii would potentially be at risk."
[Deputy Secretary of Defense John Deutch, 1994; his statement was quoted by Lt. Gen. Malcolm O'Neill, Director, Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, in a prepared statement before the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense, 6/27/95]

"The current threat includes tens of countries armed with ballistic missiles, hundreds of missile launchers, and thousands of missiles with ranges from 80 to greater than 3,000 kilometers. While these weapon systems pose a threat today that is largely regional in character, the trend is clearly in the direction of systems of increasing range, lethality, accuracy and sophistication."
[Lt. General Malcolm O'Neill, 6/27/95, see above]

"We also remain concerned that hostile nations will try to purchase from other states ballistic missiles capable of striking the U.S. A short-cut approach that's prohibited by the Missile Technology Control Regime and by the Non-Proliferation Treaty would be [for such Third World countries] to buy ICBMs or major components covertly, together with suitable nuclear warheads or fissile materials. Anything such as that would, of course, speed up ICBM acquisition by such nations."
[Director of Central Intelligence Jim Woolsey, testimony before the International Security, International Organizations and Human Rights Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, 7/28/93]

" . . . Indigenous development of long-range ballistic missiles by potential aggressor states could occur early in the next century while transfer of existing Russian or Chinese systems, components, technology or expertise might occur in contravention of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) at any time."
[Lt. General Malcolm O'Neill, 6/27/95, see above]

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